



## Department of Veterans Affairs

Michael J. Fitzmaurice  
South Dakota Veterans Home  
2500 Minnekahta Avenue  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
Phone 605.745.5127

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December 4, 2020

Dear Resident Representative,

We are happy to report that SDVH currently has zero active cases of COVID-19 in residents, and zero active cases in staff.

As a result, SDVH will no longer be in outbreak status and all households have been released from quarantine. Residents are still to remain on campus except for medically necessary appointments.

Indoor lobby visits will resume on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. All indoor visits **must be scheduled in advance**. No exceptions will be made. To make an appointment for an indoor visit, please call Lanae Romey at 605-745-5127 ext. 1500116. When making the appointment you will be asked to provide: name(s) of visitor(s), relationship to the resident, and a phone number. You will also be asked to confirm your understanding of the enclosed visitor guidelines.

Available visit times are:

Monday – Friday: 9:45-10:45 am; 12:30-1:30 pm; 2:30-3:30 pm; 3:45-4:45 pm

\*Sunday: 1:00-2:00 pm; 2:15-3:15 pm; 3:30-4:30 pm

\*Please note, Sunday hours are very limited and are intended for those who absolutely cannot visit during the week.

To those who are not able to visit in person, we encourage you to reach out to our social workers to coordinate visits via Facetime, Skype, and other means.

- Amanda – 605-745-5127 ext. 1500118 – Jasco, South Pacific, Custer, and Joe Foss
- Anita – 605-745-5127 ext. 1500331 – Veterans Lane, Old Glory, Stars & Stripes, and Nasa

Activities in groups of 10 or less will resume and the barber shop, mini mart, and chapel services will re-open next week.

SDVH will continue to follow core principles of infection prevention as follows:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)
- Social distancing at least six feet between persons

- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of highly touched surfaces in the facility including designated visitation areas following each visit
- Appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required

**Staff** will always:

- Wear a mask when in the building (except when actively eating or drinking)
- Social distance (6 feet or more) from others
- Perform hand hygiene often
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently

**Visitors** will:

- Wear a mask when in the building
- Social distance (6 feet or more) from others
- Perform hand hygiene
- Follow all posted rules and guidelines for visitors

**Residents** will:

- Social distance (6 feet or more) from others
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more

We continue to follow all precautions based on state and federal guidelines as well as CDC and DOH recommendations to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call administration at 605-745-5127 ext.1500116 or Rachelle Infection Preventionist at 605-745-5127 ext. 1500339 regarding questions about COVID-19 and the facility.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Butler, RN  
Infection Preventionist

## **SDVH VISITOR GUIDELINES**

- Approved visiting hours are:
  - Monday–Friday: 9:45–10:45 am; 12:30–1:30 pm; 2:30–3:30 pm; 3:45–4:45 pm
  - \*Sunday: 1:00–2:00 pm; 2:15–3:15 pm; 3:30 pm–4:30 pm
- \*Please note, the Sunday hours are very limited and are intended for those who absolutely cannot visit during the week.
- **Visit must be scheduled prior to arrival. No exceptions.**
  - Call Lanae at 605-745-5127 ext. 1500116 to schedule an appointment.
- Only 2 visitors at a time.
- Visit duration is 60 minutes.
  - Rescheduled visits may occasionally be reduced to 30 minutes based on resource availability.
- Per CDC and SD Dept of Health guidance, no touching, hugging, handshakes are permitted.
- Visitor(s) must wear a face covering or face mask during the entire visit. Please bring your own face mask if you have one. If you do not have a face mask, the facility will supply you with one upon arrival.
  - Please note this means you may not eat with the resident.
- Visitor(s) must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visits.
- Visitor(s) must stay in the designated visit area (first floor lobby).
- Visitors with children must be able to manage them, and the child(ren) must be able to wear a face mask and stay in the designated visit area during the entire visit.
- Visitor(s) must sign in and provide contact information.
- Visitor(s) must not have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever at time of visit); must attest to their COVID-19 status (testing results, if tested); and if they have had COVID-19, they must provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note) that they no longer meet CDC criteria for transmission-based precautions.
- Visitor(s) may bring single serving, commercially packaged food items to residents during visits. This includes carry out items from local restaurants (still in restaurant packaging), candy bars, pre-packaged muffin from store, etc.
- Restrooms will be available upon request. Only one individual may be in the restroom at a time. We highly encourage using the restroom prior to arriving at the facility.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The availability of these visits is subject to change at any time based on recommendations from local, state and national officials. If a case of COVID-19 were to occur at the home and/or if county positivity status in Fall River County changes to high, these visits may be suspended, and you would receive notification from SDVH to cancel/reschedule the visit. Some rescheduled visits may be reduced to 30 minutes in order to accommodate all those needing to reschedule.